HC HANATOYUME COMICS 別冊花とゆめ

嘘解きレトリック

3

都戸利津

Shoujo Sense
Usotoki Rhetoric
by Miyako Ritsu
Chapter 10
3
嘘解きレトリック
都戸利津
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HANATOYUME COMICS

USOTOKI RHETORIC

3

MIYAKO RITSU

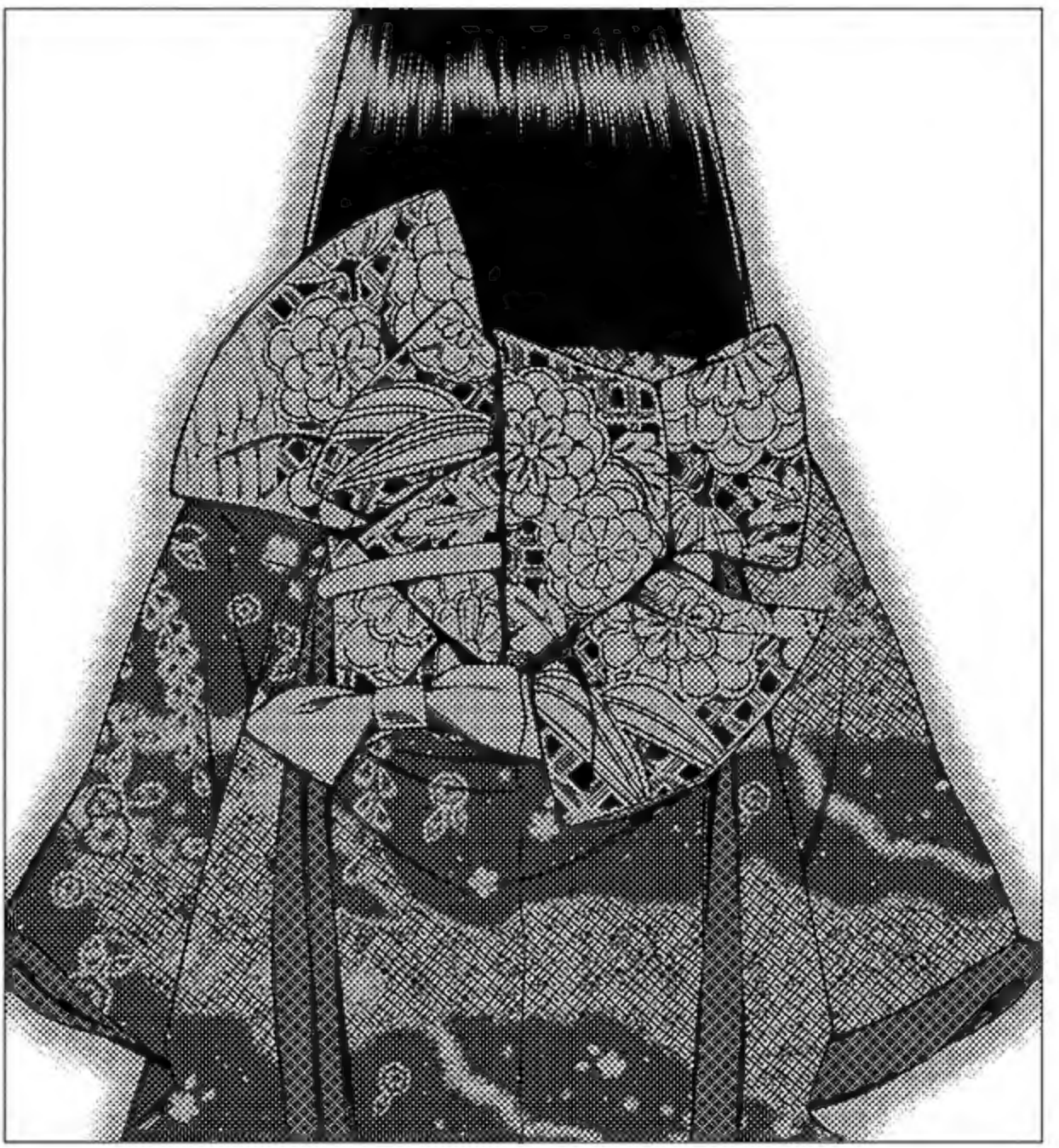
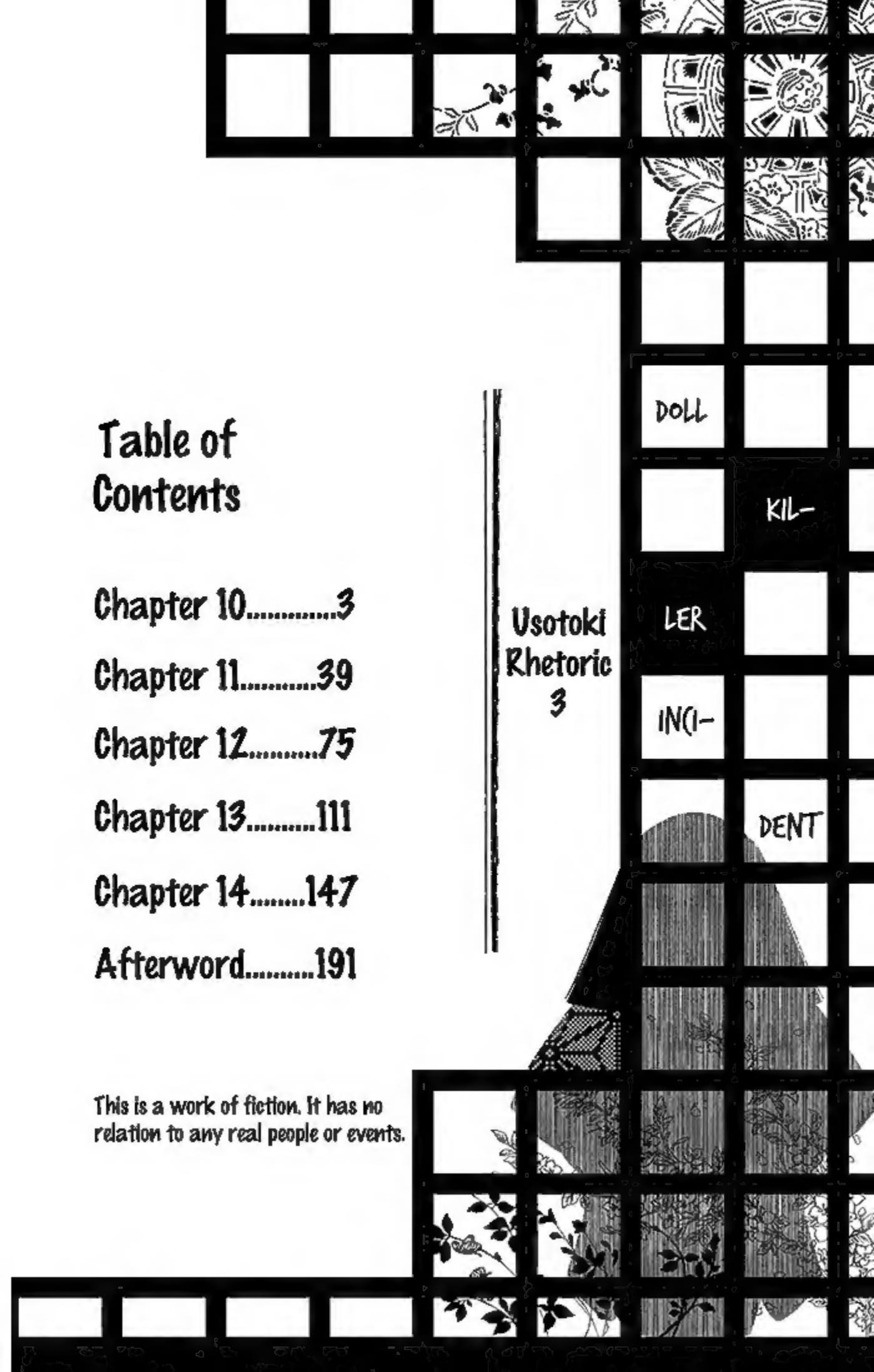


Table of Contents

Chapter 10.....3
Chapter 11.....39
Chapter 12.....75
Chapter 13.....111
Chapter 14.....147
Afterword.....191

Usotoki Rhetoric 3



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Chapter 10
SFX: RUSTLE
HEY, LOOK.
THERE'S SOME-ONE...
SFX: KSHHHH
SFX: KSHHHH
THIS IS BAD. WE HAVE TO CALL SOME-ONE TO...
WHAT'S WRONG?

JUST NOW, IN THAT SHRINE,
THERE WAS... A GIRL ...?
OR WAS IT... A DOLL?
SFX: KSHHHHH
One month later.
Urabe Kanoko, detective's assistant.
DE-TEC-TIVE,
IT'S AN IRON BRIDGE! AN IRON BRIDGE!!
SFX: CLATTER X2

SFX: KACLUNK
This is the first time I have taken the train out of town
since becoming detective Iwai Souma's assistant.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN IN A TRAIN FOR THIS LONG!
IS THIS BECAUSE OUR NEW CASE IS LOCATED SO FAR AWAY?
You're gonna have to close that 'cause a tunnel's coming up
WELL YOU SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN, KANOKO-KUN.
Iwai Souma, Detective.
IF THIS WAS A JOB I WOULDN'T CARE WHERE IT IS...
NOPE.
I COULDN'T PAY THIS MONTH EITHER.
EVERY MONTH I HAVE TROUBLE PAYING MY RENT, RIGHT?
NOPE.
THIS ISN'T A NEW CASE?

Run-away
SFX: CLUNK
SO WE'RE RUNNING AWAY.
SFX: CLUNK
WE-
So we're fleeing from the debts he owes
on a train.
SFX: SCREECH
I'M SORRY, PLEASE CALM DOWN.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?! BREAK DOWN AND DANCE LIKE CRAZY?!
What should I do?
WILL IT MAKE MONEY POP OUT OF NO-WHERE?!
BUT I HAVE NO MONEY.
WE CAN'T JUST RUN AWAY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AND WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO IF YOU BECOME DEFIANT?!

We have to find some way to pay for the rent...
I knew he was hopeless.
Living such a carefree life, not doing anything at all.
And I wasn't any less guilty either!
I had to tell Taro-chan to feed Inari.
Sob
SOO
SFX: CLANK

HEY, KANOKO-KUN.

SFX: KACLUNK
ISN'T IT STRANGE?
I'm sorry, I didn't see it.
The detective is hopeless when it comes to money.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
HE JUST COVERED HIS BLACK BAG FROM THE LUGGAGE RACK WITH A CLOTH.
THAT GUY WITH THE SUITCASE HEADING THIS WAY,
HE IGNORED THE BAG'S HANDLE AND JUST COVERED THE WHOLE THING WITH A CLOTH WITHOUT EVEN TYING A KNOT.
WHILE STILL HAVING TO CARRY ANOTHER BAG. HE JUST MADE THINGS HARDER FOR HIMSELF.
But he is a very skilled and observant detective.
SFX: CLANK
LET'S FIND OUT.
DOES THAT MEAN,
THAT HE STOLE SOMEONE ELSE'S BAG AND COVERED IT WITH A CLOTH?!

EXCUSE ME,
And then...
SFX KACLuNK
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT CARRYING THE WRONG BAG?
OF COURSE, THIS IS MINE.
WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
As the detective's assistant,
I'm able to detect lies.
When [redacted] tells a lie,
SFX KACLuNK

I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT!
slap
YOU JUST TOOK THAT BLACK BAG FROM THE LUGGAGE RACK AND COVERED IT WITH A CLOTH
THEN ACTED LIKE IT WAS YOURS I THOUGHT YOU WERE A THIEF!!
WHA ...
A THIEF ?
I can hear a hard-clanging sound.
Lies.
But how can we prove it?
We don't know what's inside the bag...
OH, I SEE!!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
WHAT ARE YOU...

He forced it out of him.
Now that the victim has come out,
SFX. CHATTER
AH,
MY LUGGAGE IS REALLY GONE!!
A THIEF?
he's now forced to prove he's not a thief.
REAL-LY?
NO, IT'S...
SO, WHAT'S INSIDE THEN ..?
SFX. SWISH
DAMN IT!!
kaclunk
SO, YOU CAN'T EVEN GIVE THE EXCUSE THAT YOU TOOK THE WRONG BAG.
But
YOU EVEN COVERED IT WITH A CLOTH.

SFX WAH
THIEF!!
GET HIM!
DE-TEC-TIVE!
SFX WHAP
SFX GAH
SFX THUD
IDIOT.

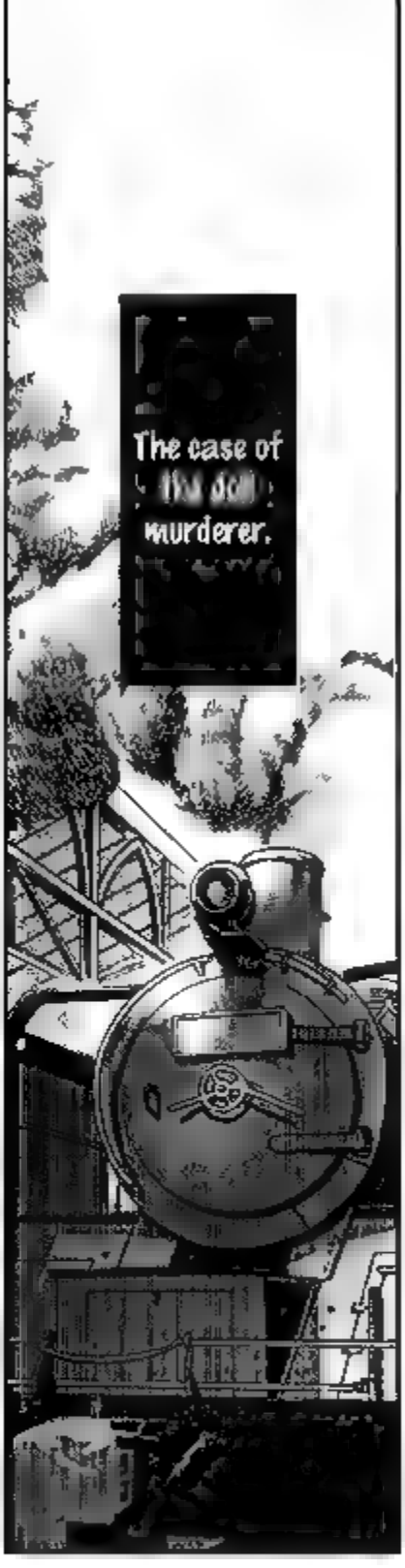
Waah
CALL THE CONDUC-TOR.
Waah
WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE HE STOLE?!
Amazing.
WHERE WERE YOU PLANNING TO ESCAPE IN A MOVING TRAIN?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES!
Owww
Hm? This lady...
AS ALWAYS.
Shoujo Sense

MIYABI...SIS... LONG TIME NO SEE.
Eh?
I'm running away in a moving train too.
I feel like I've seen her before.
SLOPPY AS USUAL, EH, SOUMA-KUN?
I'M URABE KANOKO!
OOOH, AN ASSIS-TANT?!
Sis? His sister?
THIS IS MY ASSIS-TANT, KANOKO-KUN
AND YOU ARE?
I'M HANASAKI MIYABI. PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
"Hana-saki"...
Kaoluna

THANKS FOR ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR MY BROTHER.
Miyabi-san is the older sister of detective Souma's best friend, Hanasaki Kaoru.
She's a magazine reporter.
And she's working on a story out of town.
YOU'RE HANA-SAKI-SAN'S SISTER?!
SFX KACLUNK
OH, AND IF THAT'S THE CASE,
They look alike ...
PLEASE DON'T TELL KAORU.
BUT YOU'RE REALLY RUNNING AWAY INTO THE NIGHT?
YOU REALLY ARE USELESS, SOUMA-KUN

A mansion... a young lady...
I'M GOING TO STAY IN A MANSION FOR A NIGHT,
AND INTERVIEW THE YOUNG LADY THAT LIVES THERE.
SAY, DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME ON MY INVESTI-GATION?
A PUBLICATION ABOUT GHOSTS AND THE PARA-NORMAL, "LOOKING FOR THE DEVIL'S CAVE".
That kind of magazine?!
ISN'T THAT FOR YOUR MAGAZINE?
MIYABI-SAN'S MAGAZINE?
MY STAFF SUDDENLY GOT ASSIGNED TO SOMETHING ELSE, CAN YOU HELP ME CARRY MY BAGS?
I ASKED MY FRIENDS BUT THEY ALL SAID NO
WE'RE GOING!!
GOO!
IF YOU DO, I'LL PAY FOR YOUR MONTH'S RENT.
Too bother-so
Ghosts and the paranormal.
YOU'RE FREE, RIGHT? WHY DON'T YOU COME?

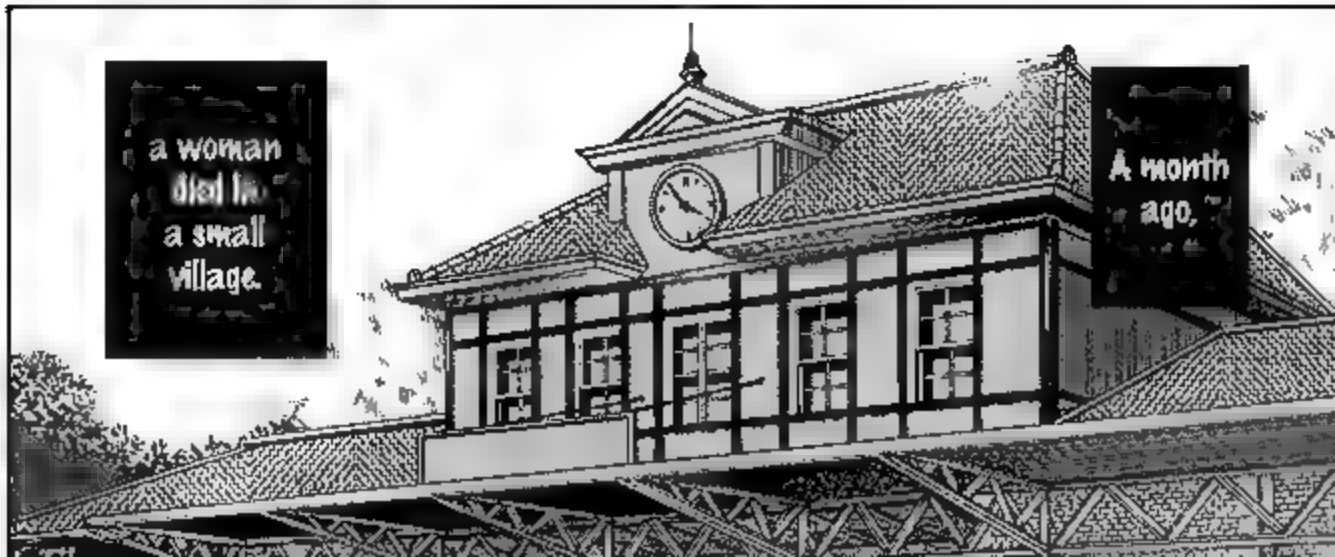
ABSOLUTELY DESPERATE
GREAT!
"THE CASE OF THE DOLL MURDERER".
Ghosts ?
SO...
WHAT IS YOUR REPORT ABOUT?
IS THAT
clunk
A PERSON WHO KILLS DOLLS?
OR A DOLL THAT KILLS PEOPLE?
And with that



kaclunk

BOTH!

we became involved in a case.



SHIBATA-SAN, RIGHT? THANK YOU FOR PICKING US UP.
HE WILL TAKE YOUR BAGS.
I ALREADY HAVE THEM TO CARRY MY BAGS.
YOU'RE THE ONE FROM "LOOKING FOR THE DEVIL'S CAVE"?
THANK YOU FOR WAITING!
"I killed the doll."
she was already dead, holding a doll.
Before she died, she apparently told a distant relative,
bow
THIS IS KUBO-KUN, THE ONE WHO DISCOVERED THE BODY
When this fisherman found her
THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE TO INVESTIGATE INE'S CASE.
The woman's name was Shibata Ine.
SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF A RELATIVE.
I HAVEN'T VISITED INE THAT OFTEN, SINCE HER HOUSE WAS SO FAR AWAY.
MY BROTHER HASN'T BEEN IN GOOD HEALTH FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, SO HE CAME TO RELY ON ME. I GOT HIS DAUGHTER INE THIS JOB AS A MAID

THERE, BY THAT MOUNTAIN-SIDE.
CAN YOU SEE IT?
AYAO'S MANSION, THE "DOLL MANSION".
She was a maid at the doll mansion.
That mansion
HE'S A WEALTHY MAN WHO OWNS A LOT OF LAND AROUND HERE.
We're ready to go
THE AYAO FAMILY HAS THIS WEIRD TRADITION.
THEIR ONLY DAUGHTER HAS BEEN SICKLY SINCE SHE WAS BORN, SO TO PRAY FOR HER HEALTHY GROWTH,
THEY ALSO RAISED A DOLL.
DOLL MANSION?
is where we're going today.
SFX: CLUNK

1
■ごあいさつ
噛解きレトリック③
お手に取って頂き
ありがとうございます。
今まで日常的な
事件が多かったの
ですが、今巻は
王道(?)困窮モノに
挑戦です。
RAISED A DOLL?
THEY DRESS HER UP EVERY DAY.
AND WHATEVER THEIR DAUGHTER EATS, THEY PREPARE THE SAME MEAL FOR THE DOLL.
THEN THEY HAD A LIFE-SIZED DOLL MADE.
SO THEY HAD A TODDLER DOLL, A CHILD DOLL, A DOLL OF A YOUNG GIRL...
THEY HAD THE DOLL MATCH THEIR DAUGHTER'S GROWTH.
THAT'S NOT ALL.
They feed the doll...?!
SO THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED THE DOLL MANSION...

TWO YEARS AGO, THE PARENTS DIED IN A SHIPWRECK.
SO THEIR ONLY CHILD INHERITED THE MANSION.
HER NAME IS SHINAKO-SAN SHE'S 17 OR 18 YEARS OLD NOW.
THEY NEVER CALLED UP THE DOCTOR OR THE MIDWIFE IN TOWN.
IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS JUST SUDDENLY BORN THERE.
THEY SAY SHE RARELY EVER LEAVES THE HOUSE,
AND THAT SHE LOOKS LIKE A DOLL.
APPARENTLY, SHE BROKE HER LEG WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG,
BUT WAS ABLE TO WALK PERFECTLY FINE IMMEDIATELY AFTER.

EVEN WITHOUT THE MURDER INCIDENT,
THE MANSION MAKES FOR A GOOD SUBJECT FOR MY MAGAZINE.
They hear voices from the doll's room.
They feed the doll.
IS IT THE DAUGHTER'S DOLL, OR THE DOLL'S DAUGHTER? THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED THE DOLL MANSION
THEY SAY SOMETIMES THE FOOD PREPARED FOR THE DOLL GETS EATEN.
AND THAT THEY CAN HEAR VOICES FROM THE DOLL'S ROOM EVEN WHEN THERE'S NO ONE THERE.
Miyabi-san told us all about

THE STAFF NEVER STAY FOR VERY LONG.
WITH THINGS GOING ON IN THAT HOUSE,
AND THAT DAUGHTER,
the doll mansion and Shinako-san.
Then, Shibata-san told us the same thing.

When Kanoko is around I feel like she can see right through me.
It's horrible.
BECAUSE IT'S HORRIBLE.
WHEN HER PARENTS DIED IN THE ACCIDENT TWO YEARS AGO,
ALL THE MAIDS QUIT. THAT'S HOW INE GOT THE JOB.
SHE'S EMBARRASSED OF HER PROVINCIAL ACCENT SO SHE DOESN'T SPEAK MUCH,
BUT SHE WORKED HARD.
And then, last month, early in the morning.
UNCLE! UNCLE!!
SFX KNOCK KNOCK
WHAT'S WRONG, INE?
UNCLE,
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I JUST KILLED SOME-ONE...

She assumed it was the rat, so she added rat poison to the food.
Then she noticed that the food prepared for the doll was already partially eaten.
She found a rat in the kitchen.
He was startled and asked her what happened.
WHAT?!
AND THEN,
SHE SAID
THE DOLL DIED.

THE DOLL? DIED?
BUBBLES STARTED FOAMING OUT OF ITS MOUTH.
AND IT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS IN PAIN AND WAS DYING.
Shinako-san was standing beside the doll.
INE-SAN.
WHAT DID YOU DO ?
Ine rushed out of the mansion and went straight to my house.
COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN A HUMAN.
WHO ACCIDENTALLY ATE THE FOOD WITH THE POISON?
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING.

was a doll.
We went to the doll room in the mansion
and saw that the girl on the ground by Shinako-san
I WENT TO THE MANSION WITH MY SON AND A POLICE-MAN.
INE-SAN WAS SCARED, SO SHE ASKED FOR MY HELP

BUT WHILE I WAS INVESTIGATING ALL THIS,
BUT WE CHECKED THE WHOLE MANSION AND FOUND NOTHING.
EVERYONE WAS FINE. SHINAKO-SAN AND ALL THE STAFF. THERE'S NO ONE DEAD.
THAT COULD BE ..
COULD IT HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE BY INE-SAN?
MAYBE THERE WAS A DEAD HUMAN SOMEWHERE ELSE.

SFX RUSTLE
INE DIED.
I TOOK MY EYES OFF OF HER AND SHE DISAP-PEARED.
FROM HERE,
SHE FELL ONTO THOSE ROCKS OVER THERE.
THIS WAS WHERE SHE DIED
SFX KSHHHH

AND I WAS THE ONE WHO FOUND HER.
I WAS PLANNING TO GO FISHING ON THE MARSH BELOW ON THAT DAY.
AND I JUST HEARD SOMETHING FALL.
WHEN I WENT TO CHECK, I FOUND A WOMAN ON THE GROUND WITH BLOOD ALL OVER THE PLACE
SHE WAS HOLDING AN EXPENSIVE-LOOKING DOLL.
THEN,
I FELT LIKE I SAW A FIGURE OVER THERE BY THE SHRINE.
IT WAS WEARING A LONG KIMONO. IT LOOKED LIKE THE DOLL SHE WAS HOLDING...
Another doll...

HOW DO PEOPLE GO TO THAT SHRINE?
YES, THERE'S NO ROAD THAT LEADS THERE.
And there's nothing inside the shrine
YOU'D HAVE TO CLIMB THE CLIFF AND GO BACK DOWN
IT'S BEEN THERE FOREVER NO ONE KNOWS WHO OR WHY IT WAS MADE
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S ANY ROAD THAT LEADS TO IT.
IS THERE SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND, DETECTIVE?
IF THEY JUST MOVED IT A TINY BIT TO THE RIGHT, THEY COULD HAVE SAVED MONEY ON THAT LONG PILLAR.
It's someone not.
LET'S GET BACK ON TOPIC, SHALL WE?
IF THERE'S NO WAY UP THERE, HOW CAN ANYONE...
THERE'S NO WAY A WOMAN IN A LONG KIMONO WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET UP THERE
AND THE ONLY ONE WHO LOOKS LIKE THAT AROUND HERE IS SHINAKO-SAN
BUT AT THAT TIME, SHE WAS WITH US AND THE POLICE WHILE WE WERE LOOKING FOR THE CORPSE

I'VE STARTED THINKING THAT MAYBE I JUST MADE A MISTAKE.
INE-SAN COULDN'T HAVE FALLEN FROM THERE EITHER...
IN THAT CASE, CAN YOU REALLY BE SURE OF WHAT YOU SAW?
ULTIMATELY, IT WAS RULED AS EITHER A SUICIDE OR AN ACCIDENT.
The official story was that she mistook a doll for a human, then killed herself.
But that didn't stop people from gossiping.
WE ASKED INE'S BROTHER ABOUT THE DOLL SHE WAS HOLDING WHEN SHE DIED.
HE SAID HE HAS NEVER EVEN SEEN IT BEFORE.
What the staff from Miyabi-san's magazine heard,
was that the dolls in the doll mansion were cursed.
HERE WE ARE.

Thank you.

Well then, we'll be off.

I'LL GO CALL THEM.

The doll mansion that raises dolls.

WELCOME.

I WILL SHOW YOU AROUND.

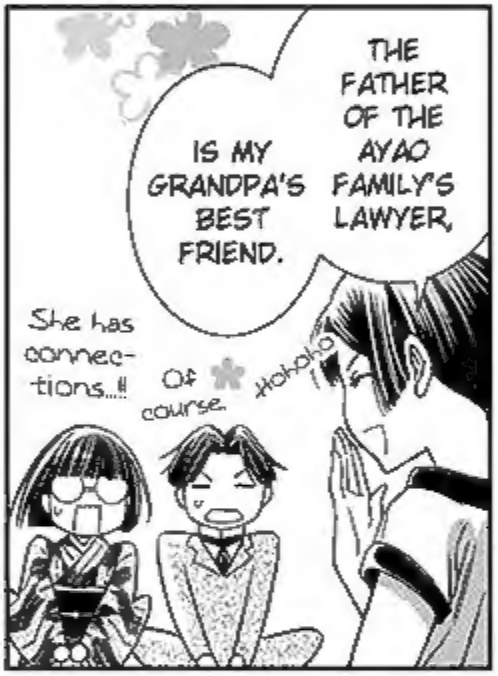
THE ATMOSPHERE IN HERE IS JUST AS THE RUMORS SAY.

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL HOUSE.

Does this mansion
really have dolls that eat and die?
PLEASE WAIT HERE.
WHAT A SURPRI-SINGLY NORMAL GUEST-ROOM.
I THOUGHT WE'D BE SURROUNDED BY DOLLS BY NOW.
BY THE WAY, MIYABI-SAN.

YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS INCIDENT.
AND YOU'VE HEARD SO MANY RUMORS ABOUT THE GHOST STORIES HERE.
DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU FEEL UNPLEASANT TO BE HERE?

WELL ANYWAY,
EVEN IF MY MAGAZINE IS ABOUT THE PARA-NORMAL,
NOTHING GOOD WILL COME OUT OF SPREADING THESE BASELESS RUMORS AND HURTING MORE PEOPLE.


THE FATHER OF THE AYAO FAMILY'S LAWYER,
IS MY GRANDPA'S BEST FRIEND.
She has connec-tions...!!
Of course.
hohoho

I GOT ACCESS HERE UNDER THE CONDITION THAT
I WON'T LIE IN MY ARTICLE.
Shinako-san,
Because it's creepy.

SO I WANT TO INVESTIGATE THIS PRO-PERLY.
IF IT ALL TURNS OUT TO BE RUMORS OR MISUNDER-STANDINGS,
THEN I CAN MAKE AN ARTICLE FROM THAT TOO.

They say

she looks just like a doll.

...SHI-NAKO-SAN...?

I wonder what kind of person she really is...

トタトタ

トタ

SFX: TAP 4X

SFX: THUMP

YEP!

Chapter 10 / End